such study was conducted by Ministry of Industry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amendment to Patents Act

844. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Patents Act to cover pharmaceutical, chemical and other industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps proposed to safeguard and promote the country's fundamental economic rights in international trade and commerce?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The Patents Act, 1970 provides for grant of patents. However in the cases of inventions relating to substances intended for use or capable of being used, as food or as medicine or drug or relating to substances prepared or produced by chemical processes, only process patent is permitted.

(c) India protects and promotes her economic and commercial interests through bilateral discussions and negotiations with other countries, through diplomatic contacts and, through active participation in deliberations in WTO as well as other international fora.

Donations by PSUs

845. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any public sector undertakings have made any donations to any trust or foundation; and

(b) if so, the list of such donees and the amount and year of donation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) Donations to any trust or foundation by public sector undertakings fall within the purview of the respective managements and as such, information in this regard is not maintained centrally.

Changes in Industrial Policy

846. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the important changes made in the Industrial Policy during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) what were the main objects of these changes; and

(c) how far these have been helpful in improving industrial production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) During 1997-98 and 1998-99, eight sectors had been deleted from the list of industries under compulsory licensing, and two sectors were deleted from the list of industries reserved for the public sector under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act.

For promoting foreign direct investment (FDI), the list of high priority industries which are eligible for automatic approval for foreign equity has been expanded upto 50%/51%/74%/100% for various sectors. FDI for power projects has been permitted through the automatic route upto 100% subject to foreign equity not exceeding Rs. 1500 crores. The other initiatives include expansion of permitted activities for non banking financial services to 17 activities, allowing multilateral financial institutions to contribute upto 40% in private sector banks and further delegation of power to the Development Commissioners of the Export Processing Zones.

The objectives of the policy changes are to facilitate greater investment in the industrial sector and effecting procedural